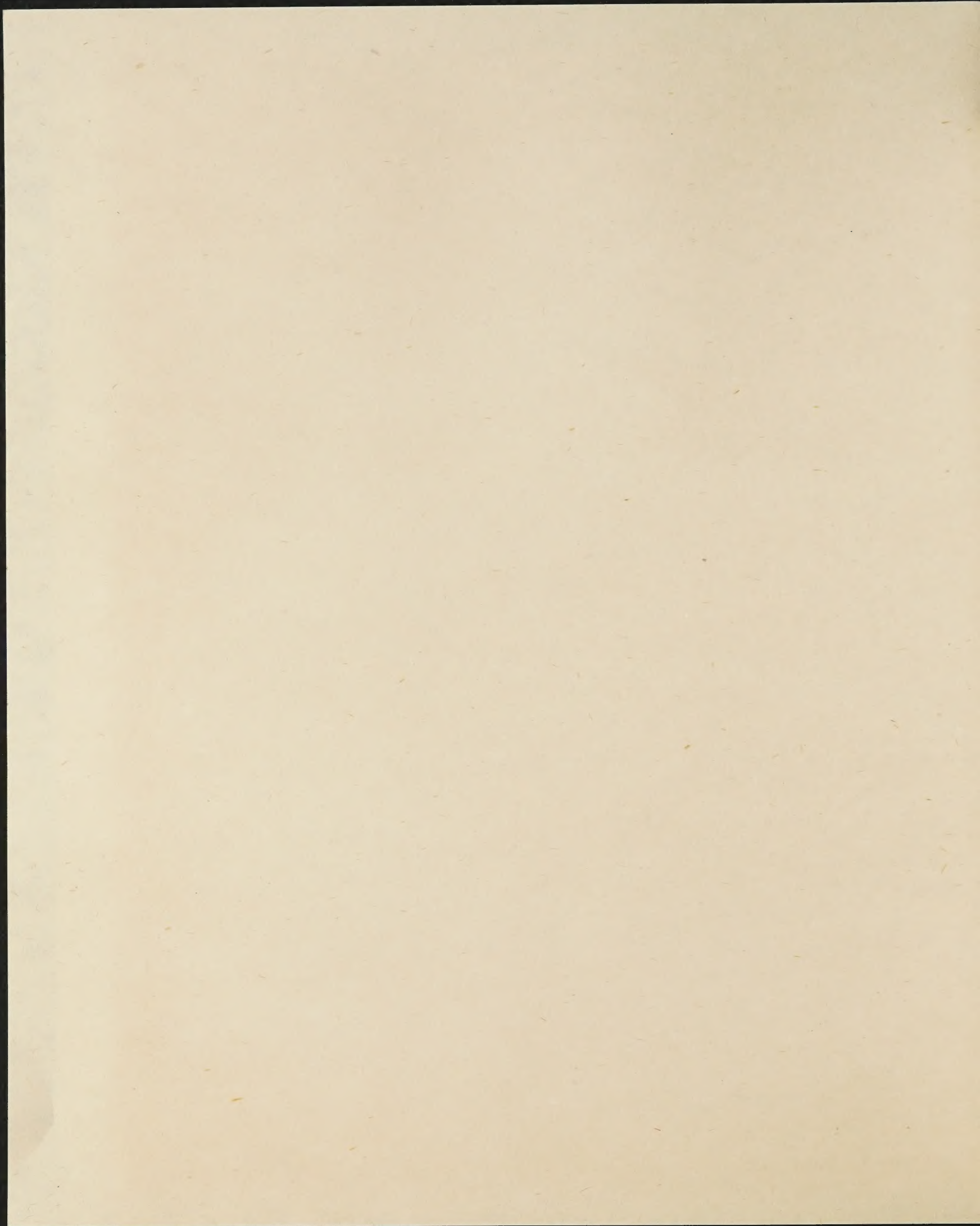


THOMPSON, Leslie R.

2 Lignite Alligator Boards

November 1918 (1917)





LIGNITE UTILIZATION BOARD

OF CANADA
CREATED BY THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT
BY ORDER IN COUNCIL

128
R.A. ROSS, MONTREAL
CHAIRMAN
J.M. LEAMY, WINNIPEG
J.A. SHEPPARD, MOOSE JAW
LESSLIE R. THOMSON,
SECRETARY
R.D.E. FRENCH, ENGINEER
EDGAR STANSFIELD,
CHEMICAL ENGINEER

80 St. Francois Xavier St.,
MONTREAL November 8, 1918.

Sir Robert A. Falconer,

President of the University of Toronto,

Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir Robert,-

The Lignite Utilization Board of Canada has recently been created by the Dominion Government to initiate the development of the Canadian Lignites. Its constitution, status and objectives are shown in detail in the accompanying memorandum.

One of the first problems to be attacked by the Board is the question of the site and as this is dependent, to some extent, on the quality of the lignite seams beneath the surface, it will be necessary for the Board to have a large number of samples taken from the mines in the Estevan district. It is, also, desirable that these samples be obtained by a thoroughly trained man, who is, at the same time, independent of any interest in the matter.

You have on your staff in the Department of Geology a Mr. Alexander MacLean, who is about the only man

TO Sir Robert A. Falconer.

November 8,

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in Canada possessing a really intimate knowledge of this particular locality. The Geological Survey of Canada has already consented to send Mr. MacLean on this mission, on our behalf, provided he can get leave for a short time from his University duties.

While speaking today, on the long distance telephone, to Mr. McInnes, Directing Geologist of the Survey, he mentioned that he had written to you asking that such leave be granted. Under the circumstances I would urge very respectfully, on behalf of the Lignite Board, that this leave be granted. In doing so I would point out the national character of the work and the necessity that exists for haste in the matter, owing to the fact that the samples must be obtained and the analyses made at the earliest moment. If you can see your way clear to approve the granting of this leave, I need hardly assure you how sincerely the Lignite Board would appreciate your action.

With kind personal regards,

Believe me to be,

Faithfully yours,

Leslie R. Thomson

LRT/FM



LIGNITE UTILIZATION BOARD OF CANADA

To those who may become interested in a business way in the activities of the Lignite Utilization Board of Canada the following information is addressed:

CONSTITUTION—The Board is created by an Order-in-Council of the Dominion of Canada supplemented by an agreement as to finances with the Provincial Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, by which the three governments have appropriated \$400,000 for the use of the Board.

BUSINESS STATUS—In its relation towards business interests, the Board has the powers of an incorporated company to buy, sell, make contracts, hold property, etc. In its relation to the Government, it is a trust, holding and expending funds provided by the governments, and having power to hold property in trust.

REASON FOR CREATION OF BOARD—The citation of part of the Order-in-Council will give clearly the reasons for the creation of the Board:

"That there are large deposits of lignite underlying various districts of the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, some of which, in the raw state can only be utilized when freshly mined, and are, moreover, unsuited in such state to household use ;"

"That by carbonizing this lignite, a coke or charcoal is obtained which briquettes readily and, without consideration of the by-products such as oil, pitch, ammonia sulphate, gas, etc., the result is to turn two tons of inferior fuel into one ton of briquettes approximating, in heating value, anthracite coal with practically the same heating value in the domestic furnace as the two tons from which it was made ;"

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE—The immediate objective of the Board is the carbonizing and briquetting of the lignites of southern Saskatchewan for domestic use.



PROGRAMME—To reach this objective the following will be the steps undertaken:

- (a) A thorough investigation will be made of all machines and processes in use on this continent covering carbonization of coal, the use of binders, and briquetting.
- (b) With full information at hand regarding machinery and processes, the Board will construct or contract for a plant of commercial size adjacent to the developed mines of southern Saskatchewan.
- (c) After operations are developed to a point where a commercial product may be obtained, the Board will distribute its output through the ordinary channels of trade.
- (d) While the production of domestic fuel is the immediate objective, the by-products derived therefrom will be studied, as will also the use of carbonized or powdered fuel for commercial power purposes.

NOTES—It is proposed that the capacity of the carbonizing and briquetting plant shall be not less than ten tons per hour.

Western Canada has heretofore imported about 500,000 tons of anthracite from Pennsylvania at a cost of about \$5,000,000 per annum.

Canada's coal resources are greater than those of any country in the world, with the exception of the United States. Much of Canada's coal, however, requires treatment before being available for satisfactory domestic use.

It is expected that a successful outcome of the development undertaken by the Board will result in the establishment of an industry of national importance.

PERSONNEL—The personnel of the Board appointed by Order-in-Council of the Dominion Government is as follows:

R. A. ROSS, Consulting Engineer, Montreal, Chairman
The Honorable J. A. SHEPPARD, Moose Jaw, Sask.
J. M. LEAMY, Provincial Electrical Engineer
of the Government of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

STAFF—The Board has appointed the following staff:

LESSLIE R. THOMSON, A.M.E.I.C., Secretary.
EDGAR STANSFIELD, M.E.I.C., Chemical Engineer.
R. DeL. FRENCH, M.E.I.C., Engineer.

ADDRESS—For the immediate present, work will be carried on in Montreal at the address given below, but thereafter it is anticipated that headquarters will be established at some point in the western provinces of Canada.

Address all correspondence to Lesslie R. Thomson, Secretary, Lignite Utilization Board, 80 St. Francois Xavier Street, Montreal.

R. A. ROSS,
Chairman.

Montreal, October 1st, 1918.

November 11th, 1918

Leslie P. Thomson, Esq.,
89 St. Francois Xavier Street,
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Thomson:

I have written to Mr. Hofman stating that Professor Coleman is willing that Mr. MacLean shall undertake work on behalf of the Lignite Utilization Board of Canada. I hope that he will be found of service to you in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

President.